

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6616:
“AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO
THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS”**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Ada Fenick; I am a pediatrician working at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, CT, where I see patients and teach future physicians. I am a resident of New Haven, CT. I am writing on my own behalf and for my patients, and not on behalf of the Yale School of Medicine.

I stand in support of HB 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY for all residents regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. Our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 13; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, but at the very least children up to age 21 as well as DACA recipients.

Every day in our practice, we see patients who have delayed care for their children until their medical problem can no longer be ignored. Often, patients who delay their care have worse final outcomes, with disability (or even death); this happens even in our practice for the children and adolescents we care for. The state should care about this not only on humanitarian grounds, but also on economic grounds – we should want every person to be able to function in good health to promote the economy of the state. This bill is humane and it represents an investment in the future of the state of Connecticut.

I support HB 6616, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation to open access to all community members in Connecticut regardless of age or status, but at the very least children up to age 21 as well as DACA recipients.

Thank you for your time,
Ada Fenick, MD
New Haven, CT